



Governor's Commission for Women  
2007 - 2009 Biennial Report  
Governor Rick Perry





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# Letter from the Chair

On behalf of the Governor's Commission for Women, I am pleased to present the 2007-2009 Biennial Report. The report provides an overview of our important work on behalf of Texas women.

A division of the Office of the Governor, the Governor's Commission for Women strives to improve the lives of Texas women through outreach, education, research, and referral services. Since our establishment in 1967, the Commission has helped thousands of Texas women. Our initiatives are constantly evolving to match the needs of Texans we serve. The 2007-2009 Governor's Commission for Women focused on health and wellness, domestic violence prevention, economic development, and honoring Texas women through the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

This term, the Governor's Commission for Women continued its sponsorship of the Texas Conference for Women and the Texas Round-Up. At these events, the Commission provided information on and screenings for two health threats to Texas women: heart disease and a sedentary lifestyle. We also updated information in the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Toolkits and distributed the toolkits to all 1,704 public high schools in Texas. Partnering with AARP Foundation, the Commission assisted several hundred women in the Rio Grande Valley with their return-to-work job searches. Last, five outstanding women were inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 2008 for their service to the great State of Texas.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Governor's Commission for Women. It has been an honor serving as chair of the Governor's Commission for Women. The future of the women of Texas has never been brighter!

Wendy Taylor  
Chair, 2007-2009 Governor's Commission for Women

# History of the Governor's Commission for Women

- 1967-1969**
  - Governor John Connally established the Texas Commission on the Status of Women in 1967.
  - The Commission prepared a report on women in Texas, which focused on education, home and community, employment practices, and legal treatment.
- 1970**
  - Governor Preston Smith established the Texas Status of Women Commission to serve as a liaison between Texas women and their state government, and to encourage the advancement of women's causes.
  - The Commission sponsored the first statewide conference on the status of women in August 1970.
- 1972-1976**
  - The work of the Commission ceased for four years due to a conflict between legislators over the establishment of a permanent state-wide commission on the status of women.
- 1977-1979**
  - Policies were developed to foster equal treatment of women in all areas.
  - The Commission produced a manual on family violence.
- 1983-1985**
  - The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse was created, which coordinated victims' assistance programs and provided information about available services.
  - The staff traveled around the state with keynote speakers and explained the roles of various state agencies. This tour helped create local commissions for women throughout Texas.
  - Commissioners focused on voter registration of low income, female wage-earners and urged the secretary of state to collect statistics on voter registration by gender.
  - The Commission established the Texas Women's Hall of Fame to honor notable women in Texas.
- 1985-1987**
  - More than 14,000 women were surveyed to identify the five most important issues affecting women.
  - The Commission sponsored 16 regional forums state-wide to track issues of importance to Texas women and gather ideas for programs.
  - Legislation was reviewed to determine its impact on women.
- 1987-1989**
  - The Commission studied the economic advancement of women and created a state-wide displaced homemakers network.
- 1991-1993**
  - The Commission examined health insurance coverage for women and wrote a "Patient's Bill of Rights for Women."
  - A database of women's organizations located throughout the state was created.
- 1993-1995**
  - Model programs were identified across the state that successfully addressed community needs.

- First Ladies Laura Bush and Barbara Bush recorded public service announcements on breast cancer and methods of early detection. Announcements also ran in newspapers state-wide. **1995-1997**
- A committee monitored legislation affecting women, sponsored a legislative workshop, and published *The Layman's Guide to the Legislative Process*.
- The Commission established the Beacon State Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit, to fund various activities.
- The Commission hosted The Carole Kneeland Awards, which recognized reporters who aired stories on women's health issues. **1997-1999**
- A bilingual video series was developed that focused on women's health issues.
- The Commission created a physical fitness awareness campaign for fourth grade students and their parents. The program encouraged the participants to exercise daily to reduce health risks posed by obesity and encouraged women to be physically active. **1999-2001**
- The Texas Women's Hall of Fame established a permanent exhibit at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. **2001-2003**
- The Commission sponsored a domestic violence prevention public awareness campaign in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.
- Law enforcement officers were surveyed to assess prevalence of domestic violence and ascertain the resource needs of these agencies.
- The Commission became a founding sponsor of the Texas Round-Up. **2003-2005**
- Seven cities across the state hosted the Governor's Small Business Summits, sponsored in part by the Commission.
- The Commission collaborated with domestic violence prevention organizations and the Texas Municipal Police Association to create 60,000 batterer resource brochures for distribution to batterers by law enforcement, social service providers, and the faith community.
- In 2007, the Governor's Commission for Women celebrated its 40th anniversary. The Commission hosted a luncheon for 400 guests honoring the accomplishments of the past 40 years. **2005-2007**
- The Commission supported the Survivors at Work Program in the Rio Grande Valley, an initiative that connects domestic abuse survivors with workforce programs and services.
- Several hundred Teen Dating Violence Awareness Toolkits were distributed to public high schools throughout the state of Texas.
- The Commission partnered with the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas to host the *Texas Business Woman of the Year Awards*.





# **Governor's Commission for Women**

## **2007-2009**



# The Governor's Commission for Women

The Governor's Commission for Women initially was established by executive order in 1967 by Governor John Connolly following the establishment of the United States Commission on the Status of Women in 1961. The Texas Commission is one of the oldest women's commissions in the country.

The Commission promotes opportunities for Texas women through outreach, education, research, and referral services. Governor Rick Perry appoints the Commissioners, who each serve a two-year term. These gubernatorial appointees have diverse backgrounds and live across the state of Texas. The Commission term ran from January 1, 2008—December 31, 2009. The Commission supports one employee, the executive director, and meets on a quarterly basis.

## 2007-2009 Commission:

**Wendy Taylor**, Chair  
Austin

**Peggy Hairgrove**  
Bryan

**Sharon Pittman**  
College Station

**Carol Peterson**, Vice Chair  
Alpine

**Tresa Rockwell**  
Austin

**Christie Leedy**  
Abilene

**Cynthia Jenkins**  
Irving

**Connie Weeks**  
Austin

**Lisa Lucero**  
Austin

**Daisy White**  
Houston

**Lesley Guthrie**,  
Executive Director  
Austin

**Becky McKinley**  
Amarillo

**Lisa Perini**  
Buffalo Gap

**Carmen Pagan**  
McAllen

**Stephanie Cavender**  
San Antonio

Profiles of the Commissioners begin on page 45.

## Commission Priorities

Commissioners focus their efforts on issues that affect women, while complimenting the goals and initiatives of the Office of the Governor and the Office of the First Lady. The 2007-2009 Commission focused on three issue areas: Health & Wellness, Domestic Violence Prevention, and Economic Development. Additionally, the Commission works to honor the efforts of outstanding Texas women with the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

At the initial Commission meeting in February 2008, the Commission divided into four committees. Each committee created a strategic plan defining its projects and goals to meet during the term.

### Health and Wellness:

Becky McKinley, Chair  
Christie Leedy  
Carol Peterson  
Stephanie Cavender

### Domestic Violence Prevention:

Tresa Rockwell, Chair  
Peggy Hairgrove  
Sharon Pittman

### Economic Development:

Carmen Pagan, Chair  
Cynthia Jenkins  
Lisa Perini

### Honoring Texas Women:

Lisa Lucero, Chair  
Daisy White  
Connie Weeks



2007-2009 Governor's Commission for Women

## Beacon State Fund

The Governor's Commission for Women is financially supported by the Office of the Governor and the Beacon State Fund, a non-profit organization that raises money on behalf of the Commission. The Beacon State Fund was established in 1996 as a non-profit organization designed to educate and improve the civic participation of Texas citizens by promoting community leadership and volunteerism. The board meets annually.

Fundraising is necessary for the Commission because state monies are not used for the Commission's initiatives, only for its administrative costs. The State Agency Council also provides support to the Commission to achieve its goals, including financial donations. Information on the State Agency Council begins on page 15.

### Beacon State Fund Board of Directors:

Connie Weeks, President

Melissa Jackson, Secretary

Rita Kreisle, Treasurer

## Legislative Breakfast

Held during National Women's History Month, the Governor's Commission for Women hosted a breakfast honoring female legislators on March 10, 2009. The University of Texas at Austin's AT&T Conference Center and Hotel served as the venue. Hosted by

Governor Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry, the event was attended by more than 300 elected officials and invited guests.



In addition to honoring female legislators of the 81st Legislature, the Commission exceeded its fundraising goal, raising more than \$60,000, to support its programs and initiatives. Attendees received artwork produced especially for the event by Commissioner Connie Weeks.

# Outreach & Communication

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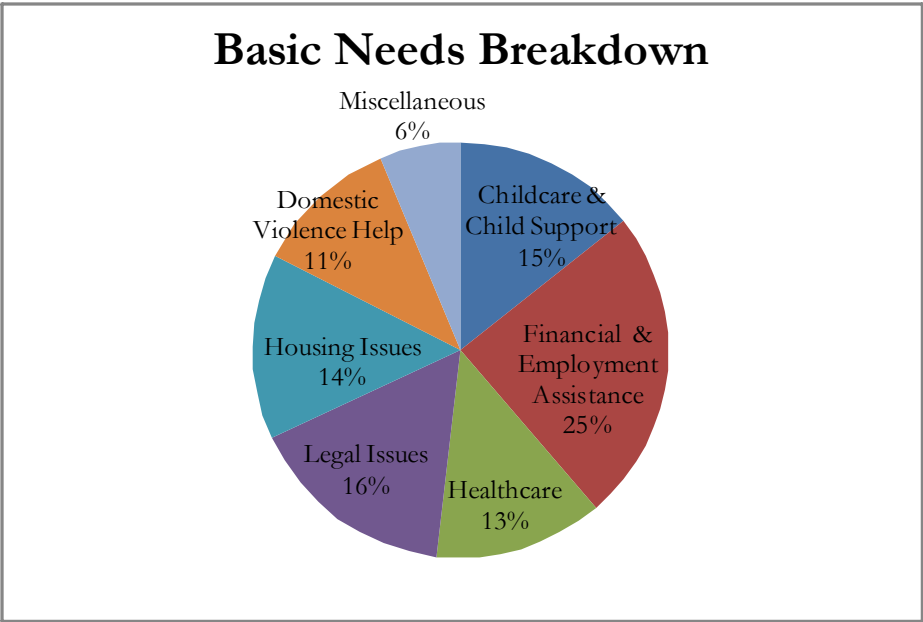
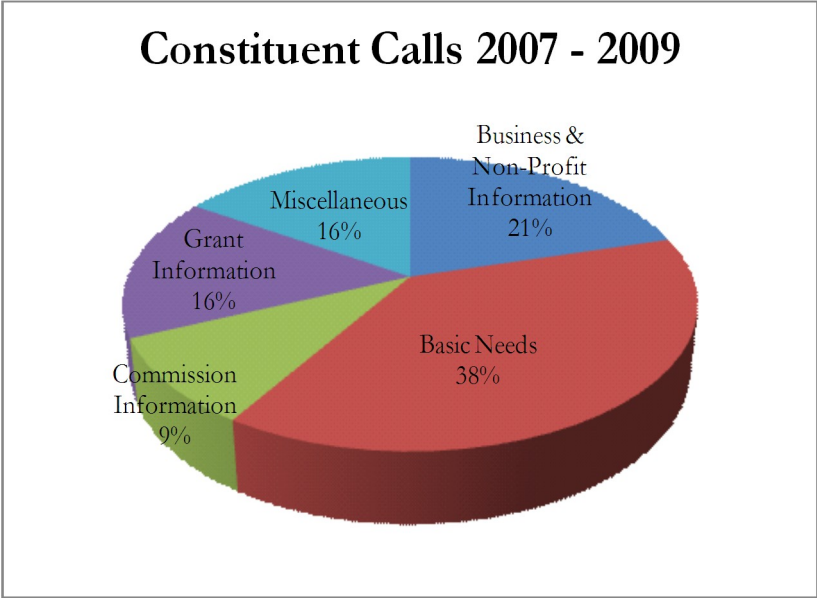
*“It is so nice to know that there is someone in Austin that women can talk to. It is such a blessing.”*

—B. Poole, constituent  
Diana, Texas

# Constituent Relations

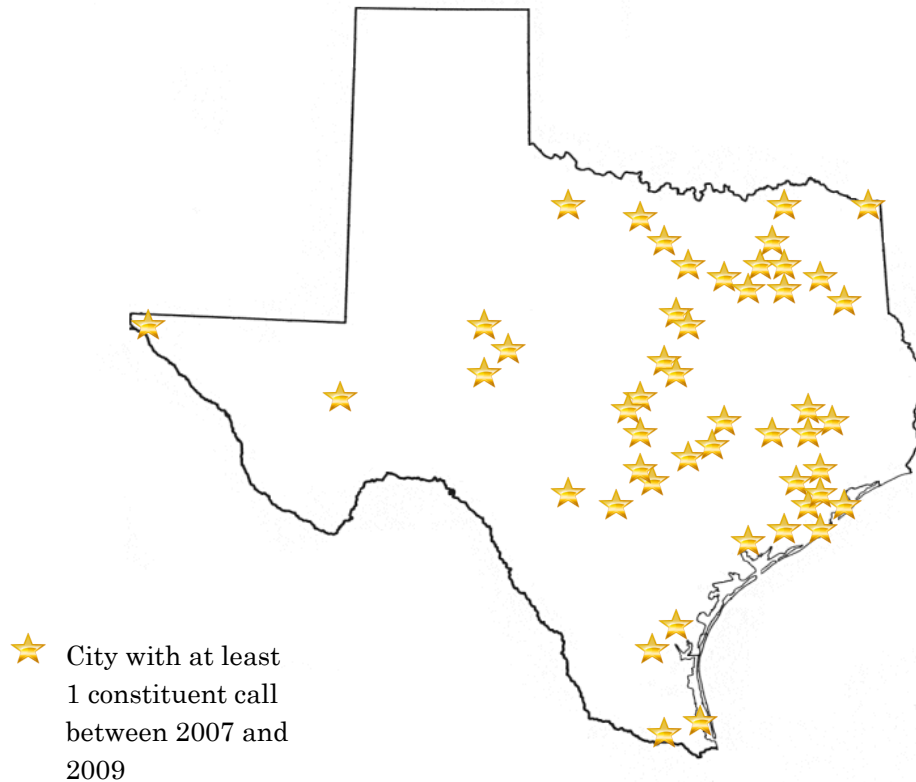
The Governor’s Commission for Women provides assistance to our constituents, Texas residents, including referrals for services and information requests. During the last two years, the Commission has responded to several hundred constituent requests.

Constituents contact the Commission by phone, e-mail, and letter for a variety of reasons.



## Constituent Calls Across the State

Constituents contact the Commission from across the state of Texas, but several calls each year come from outside the state.



## Commission Newsletter

The Commission publishes two electronic newsletters each year, in the fall and spring. Currently, the e-newsletter is distributed to over 1500 recipients through e-mail and is available for viewing on the Commission website. The newsletter includes information on issues affecting women and upcoming projects and events. To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send your e-mail address to [women@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:women@governor.state.tx.us).

# Texas Conference for Women



*“Texas women have shown the world how Texans handle diversity: through hard work, creativity, and neighborly compassion. Texas women ...confront these challenges head on, leaving our state better and stronger than ever before.”*

— Governor Rick Perry

Hosted by Governor Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry, the Texas Conference for Women will celebrate its 10th anniversary at the 2009 Conference for Women on November 12 in Houston. The Conference is a nonprofit, non-partisan, one-day event for Texas women to connect, to learn practical and professional strategies from nationally recognized experts, and to network with peers. The Governor’s Commission for Women is a founding sponsor of the Conference.

Since its inception, over 40,000 women have attended the Texas Conference for Women. Featured events at the Conference include dozens of expert speakers leading workshops and seminars on issues important to women from a broad scope of occupations including international and national politics, health, media, business, finance, and personal development. The Conference also awards scholarships to female Texan college students, presented by the First Lady.

## Heart Disease Prevention

The Governor’s Commission for Women hosts two booths in the exhibit hall of the Conference each year. One booth has information on the Commission and its initiatives and projects. The second booth is a project of the Health and Wellness Committee. Heart disease is the leading cause of death of women in the United States and is one of the Commission’s major prevention initiatives. Staffed by nurses from the American Heart Association, women at the Conference receive free blood pressure and Body-Mass Index testing.

## Chartered Buses

For the 2009 Texas Conference for Women, the Commission is partnering with the State Agency Council to provide shuttle bus transportation to the Conference for state employees. Since the Conference moved to Houston in 2008, it has been difficult for state employees, who are based in Austin, to attend the event. The Commission negotiated a reduced admission price and will provide affordable roundtrip transportation (for only \$30) on chartered buses for state employees who register through the State Agency Council.



# State Agency Council

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“It was a true honor to receive the 2008 Outstanding Women in Texas Government Award when there are so many exceptional women working in government that deserve recognition for their hard work as well.

The recognition further inspires me and my staff to continue our efforts to make the Texas Workforce Commission a leader in workforce systems across the nation, particularly in our numerous employment and training programs that are much needed during this difficult time in our nation's economy.”

—Reagan Miller

2008 Outstanding Management Award Recipient

Outstanding Women In Texas Government Awards

# State Agency Council

The State Agency Council was established in 1983 by Governor Mark White to support the goals of the Governor's Commission for Women. The Council provides its state agency representatives with the opportunity for professional development, community service, and a forum to discuss women's issues.

Members of the State Agency Council are appointed by the director of each state agency at the Governor's request. Agencies appoint one member and one alternate to serve a two-year term. In addition to participating in Commission projects and programs, the State Agency Council presents the Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards. This biennial event honors women who have made significant contributions to the State of Texas through their work in state government.

Currently, there are 151 representatives, including both members and alternates, serving on the State Agency Council. The executive director of the Governor's Commission for Women appoints an Executive Board from the Council's membership.

## The 2007-2009 State Agency Council Executive Board:

### **Avis O'Reilly**

*Chair*

Texas Workforce Commission

### **Raette Smith Hearne**

*Vice-Chair*

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

### **Suzanne Guerrero**

*Treasurer*

Texas General Land Office

### **Carolyn Mezger**

*Secretary*

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

### **Shelley Harris-Curtsinger**

*Membership Director*

Texas Racing Commission

### **Martha Gussoni**

*Special Events Chair (2008-2009)*

Texas Funeral Services Commission

### **Letty Grantham**

*Special Events Co-Chair*

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

### **Wyonda Laurence**

*Special Events Chair (2007-2008)*

Texas Veterans Commission

### **Gabriela Klein**

*Past Chair*

Texas Public Finance Authority

## **General Meetings**

The State Agency Council holds monthly meetings on topics of interest to state employees. The Council's 2008 and 2009 speakers and their topics are listed below.

### 2008

**Ann Daly**, "Get Clear and Get Going: How to Accomplish What Matters Most"

**Lolis Garcia-Baab**, "Austin's First Talk Radio Show for Women"

**Patsy Woods Martin**, "I Live Here; I Give Here Campaign"

**Commissioner Denise Voigt Crawford**, "How to Avoid Financial Exploitation"

**Kim White**, "Summer Camp TEXpeditions 2008"

**Toby King**, "Fit to a 'T': An Education Program on Bone Health and Osteoporosis"

**Dr. Tina Kubicek**, "Conflict Resolution"

**Kem Edwards**, "Decoding the Mysteries of Body Language: The Science of Non-Verbal Communication"

**Connie Brubaker**, "How to Motivate Your Employees"

**Lynnell Welden**, "E-mail Etiquette"

**Jo Dale Guzman**, "Generation X Supervisors and Employees"

### 2009

**Patricia Shipton**, "Overview of the 81st Legislative Session"

**Brett Spencer**, "Statewide Wellness Advisory Board"

**Lynnell Welden**, "E-mail Etiquette"

**Kerry Overton**, "Energy Conservation for Consumers"

**Guiniviere Webb**, "Summer Programs at the Museum"

**Andrew Smiley**, "How the Sustainable Food Center Operates"

**Lindsay Rogers**, "Farm to Work Program"

**Dr. David Duhon**, "Sleep and Sleep Disorders: No More Restless Nights"

**Jo Dale Guzman**, "Inspiring Trust"

**Ann Fuelberg**, "Employees Retirement System, Post Legislative Session"

**Sandra Martin**, "Tour of the Kozmetsky Center for Child Protection"

**Dr. Declan Fleming**, "Inflammatory Breast Center"

**Chief Art Acevedo**, "Community Policing and Women's Safety Issues"

# Outstanding Women in Texas Government

The Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards were created by the State Agency Council in 1984 to honor women who have made significant contributions to the State of Texas through their work in state government. Honorees, who cannot be elected officials or political appointments, are nominated biennially by state agency directors and are chosen by an independent selection committee. More than 80 female state employees have been recognized through this awards program since its inception.

## 2008 Honorees:

**Reagan Miller**

*Outstanding Management Award*

**Susan Johnson, Ph.D.**

*Outstanding Professional Development Award*

**Connie L. Hofmann**

*Outstanding Community Involvement Award*

**Carla Sue Everett**

*Outstanding Leadership Award*

In 2008, forty-six women were nominated from across state government. The selection committee presented the four honorees with their awards on September 10, 2008 in Austin. Dr. Elsa Murano, a 2008 Texas Women's Hall of Fame honoree, delivered the keynote address at the luncheon.



State Agency Council Board with keynote speaker Dr. Elsa Murano.

# Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards

## 2008 Recipients

### Outstanding Management Award

**Reagan Miller**

Texas Workforce Commission



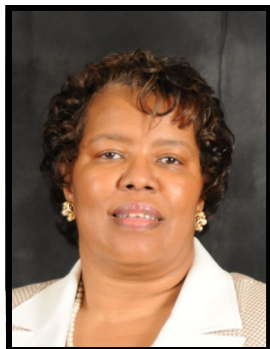
Serving as Deputy Director of the Workforce Development Division at the Texas Workforce Commission, Reagan Miller's energetic leadership skills inspire innovation and creativity within her 146-member team, propelling TWC to the forefront of workforce systems across the nation. Ms. Miller oversees the Workforce and Unemployment Insurance Policy branch, which reviews and analyzes federal and state laws and regulations and directs the development of state plans for federally-funded programs. That consists of policy oversight and development of numerous employment and training programs including the Workforce Investment Act, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Food Stamp Employment and Training.

Ms. Miller manages and ensures compliance of more than \$850 million in contracts administered by the 28 local workforce development boards, community colleges, and other partners across the state. A graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Ms. Miller holds a bachelor's degree in international studies, economics, and political science. She and her husband have two young sons.

### Outstanding Professional Development Award

**Susan Johnson, Ph.D.**

Health and Human Services Commission



Dr. Susan Johnson is the Associate Commissioner, Consumer Support & Workforce Services, Health & Human Services Commission, in Austin, Texas. Dr. Johnson, who led the Office of the Ombudsman before becoming associate commissioner, has worked at the Texas Department of Human Services, the Texas Department of Transportation, Office of the Governor, and the Texas Department of Community Affairs. She also worked at the West Central Texas Council of Governments and the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Johnson's professional and volunteer affiliations are extensive. She has a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Nashville, a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and a doctorate in higher education from Jackson State University in Mississippi. She is also a Governor's Executive Management Program graduate and is certified as a facilitator, mediator, and a Covey Facilitator of *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

# **Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards**

## **2008 Recipients**

### **Outstanding Leadership Award**

**Carla Sue Everett**

Texas Animal Health Commission



Carla Everett currently serves as the Public Information Officer for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC.) Ms. Everett graduated from Baylor University, with a degree in Journalism, Radio, TV, and Film. She began her state service as an intern in the Texas State Technical Institute in 1977 and has held positions at the Texas Department of Health, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She began her position at the Animal Health Commission in 1988 and has served the State of Texas for more than 30 years.

Ms. Everett Developed the Public Information Office at the TAHC from a few old photo slides and historical documents to an office that provides timely and accurate information to the livestock industry and the public. Currently, the information office has 21 informational brochures on livestock and poultry diseases and emergency management issues, all written and designed by Ms. Everett. Additionally, Ms. Everett created the monthly newsletter, "Animal Health Matters," to inform the public of agency rules and regulations. The newsletter is distributed to more than 36,000 contacts worldwide.

In 2005, Ms. Everett received the Executive Director's Meritorious Service Award from the Exotic Wildlife Association. In 2006, she was awarded the Industry Service Award by the Texas Park Producers Association. Her dedication and leadership have earned her respect in a predominantly male industry and agency.

### **Outstanding Community Involvement Award**

**Connie L. Hofmann**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Connie Lee Hofmann has been employed at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department since January 2005, where she serves as the Team Leader for the Employment, Retention, and Recruitment Branch of Human Resources. A graduate of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, Ms. Hofmann began her state service in January 1994 with the Texas Department of Transportation. She received her Professional of Human Resources (PHR) in May 1999.

Ms. Hofmann is active in a variety of community organizations. She is a member of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Austin and assists the church with various human resources issues. Ms. Hofmann also is President of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Toastmaster club. Involved in the Toastmasters Organization for the last ten years, Ms. Hofmann has achieved the group's highest designation of Distinguished Toastmaster. Toastmasters recognized Ms. Hofmann's leadership efforts when they awarded her "Outstanding Area Governor of the Year" in 2002. Ms. Hofmann has served on the silent auction committee in raising funds for scholarships for the membership to enhance their professional development and in obtaining professional certifications. Ms. Hofmann's most recent venture has been as a member of the Business Advisory Council for Skillpoint Alliance. At Skillpoint, she combines her Toastmaster skills by teaching professional development classes to adults retooling their career.

# State Agency Council Initiatives

## Governor's Commission for Women

The State Agency Council donated \$3000 in July 2008 to the Beacon State Fund, the non-profit arm of the Governor's Commission for Women. Money raised by the Beacon State Fund provides all of the financial support for the Commission's initiatives.

## Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund

In September 2008, the Council donated \$2500 to the Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund, an organization established to support rebuilding and restoration efforts for the mansion after the 2008 arson damage.

## AIDS Services of Austin

The Council donated toiletries to AIDS Services of Austin, an organization that assisted HIV-positive and AIDS patients in the Austin area, in October of 2008.

## The Settlement House for Children

In December 2008, the Council donated gift cards and gifts purchased for the clients of the Settlement House in Austin during the holiday season. Donations included nearly \$200 in gift cards and assorted gifts for the children, such as books, toys, and art supplies.

## Governor's Commission for Women's Legislative Breakfast

The Council purchased a table at the Commission's fundraising event in March of 2009. For more information on the Legislative Breakfast, see page 10.

## Texas Round-Up

The Council assisted the Commission with promotion of the Texas Round-Up activities by distributing flyers to the membership to increase participation. For more information on Round-Up, see page 24.

## CASA of Travis County (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

The Council members donated cash, checks, and gift cards totaling \$460 in May 2008 to CASA, an organization that assists children and families in navigation of the Child Protective Services system in Travis County.

## Cancer Center for Prevention and Care (CCPC)

In September 2009, the Council made donations to CCPC, an organization that supports cancer patients, survivors, and their families.

## Texas Conference for Women

The Council is a sponsoring organization of the Texas Conference for Women. In 2009, the Council and the Commission chartered buses to the Conference for state employees. For more information, see page 14.





# Commission Initiatives



# Health & Wellness

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## FACTS:

- Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of women, causing nearly half a million deaths each year.
- Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, and the second-most common cause of cancer deaths in women.
- Obesity is the second most preventable cause of death in the United States.

The Governor's Commission for Women strives to improve the health of Texas women and their families through education and the promotion of physical activity and healthy living. From breast and cervical cancer to heart disease to sedentary lifestyles, the Commission is working to provide Texas women with preventative information and tools they need to combat health problems. The Commission's heart disease prevention efforts at the Texas Conference for Women can be found on page 14.

## Texas Round-Up

The Texas Round-Up is a statewide fitness initiative that encourages all Texans to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles through regular exercise and general physical fitness. Governor Rick Perry created the Texas Round-Up in 2004 to counter the trend of increasing obesity and sedentary lifestyles among Texans and to serve as a model for other states as they consider other initiatives.

The Texas Round-Up includes two main components: a free, online system for individuals to keep an ongoing record of their activities throughout the year, and the Texas Round-Up Fitness Festival, which is held in Austin on the last Saturday in April. A family fun run, a 10K event, and an exposition with information on healthy lifestyles and good health practices take place at the Fitness Festival in April. The Commission is a founding sponsor of the Texas Round-Up and has previously hosted healthy cooking demonstrations and a healthy recipe contest for Round-Up participants.



Commissioners at the Texas Round-Up 2009

## Texas Round-Up: Fit Kids Fun Zone

Childhood obesity is a pandemic in the United States. Here in our home state, one in four children aged 6-18 is overweight or obese, and the numbers are only increasing. Overweight or obese children are more likely to become overweight or obese adults.

In 2009, the Governor's Commission for Women co-hosted an exposition on health and fitness for kids in the area of the Fitness Festival across from the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum that featured interactive demonstrations and activities. Kids who visited the booths received coloring books and bookmarks outlining bicycle safety, give-aways from HealthyFUNDay on healthy lifestyles, and Frisbees, featuring the Commission logo.



The Fun Zone included a giant inflatable slide, face painters, cheerleaders, a rock wall, police vehicle, and smoke house from the Austin Fire Department. To promote healthy eating habits, the Commission distributed healthy snacks, including muffins and string cheese. The Commission coordinated all the vendors at the health fair at the Fun Zone, including:

- The Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities on bicycle safety.
- Dell Children's mobile unit provided complimentary health screenings and height, weight, and BMI testing.
- Healthy FUNDay & Whole Kids Adventure discussed healthy lifestyles and eating habits.
- St. David's Community Health Foundation Leadership Dental Program discussed good oral hygiene.

To attract attention, players from the Austin Aztex and Austin Toros, both University of Texas and Texas A&M athletes, an Olympic gold medalist, and a contestant from Texas who appeared on "The Biggest Loser" signed autographs at the Fitness Festival. The Commission provided roundtrip airline transportation to Austin for the Biggest Loser contestant who appeared at the Fun Zone.



Participants at the Fit Kids Fun Zone.

## Breast Cancer Awareness Event

Each year, the Governor's Commission for Women hosts a breast cancer awareness press event and reception in conjunction with National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This event celebrated its 13th year in 2009 and takes place at the Texas Capitol. During this Commission term, the annual event was held on September 30, 2008 and October 6, 2009.

The Governor proclaims the month of October as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" prior to the press event. The goal of this annual awareness event is to encourage women to schedule annual mammograms, promote early detection, honor survivors, and remember those who have lost their battle with the disease. Hundreds of balloons were released at the conclusion of the event to represent the lives lost to breast cancer in 2009.

Texas First Lady Anita Perry is the keynote speaker at the press event, along with special guests including state health officials and breast cancer survivors and patients. Co-hosting the 2009 event with the Commission was Texas Department of State Health Services, American Cancer Society, Austin Affiliate of Susan G. Komen For the Cure, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, and Women's Wellness Program of the University of Texas School of Nursing.



Texas First Lady Anita Perry speaks at the 2009 press event.

# Domestic Violence Prevention

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## **FACTS:**

- 85-95% of all victims of domestic violence are female.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women.
- 1 in 3 teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by their partner.

Given these alarming statistics, preventing domestic violence has been a major priority of the Governor's Commission for Women for the past eight years. Most recently, the Commission promoted healthy dating relationships for teenagers and raised public awareness of domestic violence.

## **Texas Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Team**

The Governor's Commission for Women is a founding member of the "Texas Team," a collaboration of state agencies, domestic violence resource centers, and non-profit organizations that educate and encourage prevention efforts. Other members include the Texas Council on Family Violence, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Association, and the Texas Advocacy Project.

In 2007, Texas became the first state to mandate that all public high schools implement a dating violence prevention policy. The purpose of the Texas Team is to support state programs that prevent dating violence in accordance with House Bill 121. The Team has three roles: to coordinate prevention efforts; to reach out to new partners as a united front; and to provide resources to fill gaps in services statewide.

## **Teen Dating Awareness Toolkits**

The 2005-2007 Commission funded a project to produce and distribute several hundred Teen Dating Awareness Toolkits to Texas high schools. The toolkits provided resource materials to address the issue of dating violence throughout the school year.

In October of 2008, the Governor's Commission for Women and Team Texas distributed new toolkits to help high schools observe Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week. The previous toolkits were distributed to several hundred high schools because of hefty production costs. The 2008 toolkits, however, were distributed to all 1,704 public high schools in Texas. The toolkits included: a letter from Governor Perry; two posters promoting healthy dating with the slogans "Control Is Not Love" and "Stop Teen Dating Violence;" "get help" wallet cards; and a CD-ROM of materials for classroom presentation. The information in the 2008 Toolkits and the curriculum for the program was revised based on information collected from the evaluations of the previous toolkit.

## Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week was observed February 2-6, 2009. One month before the Awareness Week, the Texas Team coordinated training sessions for school personnel through the Education Service Centers to increase effectiveness of the toolkits in schools.



School administrators presented information to students on healthy dating habits and warning signs of abusive relationships. Teachers, schools, and students can find information online related to Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week, at [www.healthyteendating.org](http://www.healthyteendating.org) and on the Commission's website. In an effort to reach more students, "loveisrespect," the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, established a fanpage on Facebook.

## Public Service Announcements

Grande Communications provided the Governor's Commission for Women with free airtime in the form of 30-second television spots on networks in the eight markets they serve in Texas to promote awareness. Grande Communications serves Austin, Corpus Christi, suburban north Dallas, Midland, Odessa, San Antonio, San Marcos and Waco. The Commission reviewed public service announcements produced by partners in domestic violence prevention at the April 2009 Commission meeting. Several organizations, including the Texas Council on Family Violence, SafePlace, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, and Texas Advocacy Project, provided video recommendations for the 30-second spots.

Three 30-second spots titled "Friends," "Amigos," a Spanish-language version of "Friends," and "Just Talk" aired in Grande Communications markets in late summer and fall of 2009. Each spot ends with the tagline "Brought to you by The Texas Governor's Commission for Women."



During the month of August, the three public service announcements ran for a total of 4,725 times. During the month of September, the public service announcements ran for a total of 4,354 times. The 30-second spots ran on a variety of cable networks, including ESPN, TNT, and TBS. These same networks are also airing public service announcements for the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund. The market value of the donated airtime is over \$180,000, and, the Governor's Commission for Women is grateful for the generosity of Grande Communications.



# Economic Development

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## **FACTS:**

- Nearly one-third of businesses in Texas are owned by women.
- Women account for more than 70% of consumer spending.
- Women-owned businesses are as financially sound and creditworthy as the typical firm in the U.S. economy, and are more likely to remain in business than the average U.S. firm.

Governor Perry is committed to strengthening Texas' position in the global economy. Women own more than 800,000 privately-held businesses in Texas, which employ more than 1.5 million people and generate almost \$200 billion in annual sales. During economic crises, the burden falls disproportionately on women. A 2009 United Nations report states "women are usually the last to benefit from increasing income [but] they are usually the first to make sacrifices when the financial situation deteriorates." The Governor's Commission for Women works with numerous non-profit organizations to strengthen the position of women in the workplace.

## **AARP Foundation's WorkSearch Program**

The Governor's Commission for Women partnered with the AARP Foundation's WorkSearch Program. The Commission received a \$20,000 grant from AARP to set-up an office in South Texas and promote the new initiative. The program ran from September 2008 to February 2009 in Edinburg.

The WorkSearch Pilot Program assisted Hispanic women over 50 years of age re-enter the workforce. The Commission hired a bilingual, part-time employee to distribute information on the program to local clinics, daycare centers, libraries, churches, restaurants, community centers, businesses, and television stations. The employee also operated the program office, where jobseekers could come to utilize the WorkSearch Assessment Tool.

The WorkSearch Assessment Tool is a self-assessment evaluation, available in English and Spanish, that measures applicants' skills based on questions about their work interests, personal characteristics, and skills. After completing the assessment, the online system provides a series of job opportunities. The program reached more than 250 women. Since the end of the program, the Commission has transitioned the project to the local AARP WorkSearch office.





# Texas Women's Hall of Fame

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“What a wonderful experience for all of us on Tuesday, October 7th, at the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. It is all so surreal I have to pinch myself. I can never tell you what being honored meant to me.”

—Louise Underwood

2008 Hall of Fame Inductee

# Texas Women's Hall of Fame

The Governor's Commission for Women established the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1984 to honor Texas' most accomplished women. Former first ladies, astronauts, teachers, professional athletes, and politicians are among the 126 women who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since 1984.

In 2003, the Commission opened a permanent Texas Women's Hall of Fame exhibit at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Each of the 126 inductees is featured on a plaque with a photo and biography. The exhibit also hosts an interactive computer kiosk featuring archived interviews with honorees and videos of prior induction ceremonies.

## Nomination Process

Inductees are selected by the following criteria:

- Nominees must be native or current residents of Texas.
- The service or achievement must have been performed in Texas.
- Former nominees are eligible; former winners are not eligible.
- Nominees must have been active within the last five years in the category for which they are nominated.
- A statement must be submitted describing the nominee's contribution to the State of Texas as well as biographical information and honors or awards received by the nominee.

All nominations submitted to the Commission are evaluated by a panel of judges and nominees are chosen based on significant service and achievement in Texas. In 2008, judges included former members of the Governor's Commission for Women, Texas Woman's University administration, and elected public officials.



The Texas Women's Hall of Fame permanent exhibit at Texas Woman's University.

## 2008 Texas Women's Hall of Fame Recipients

The induction ceremony and reception for the 2008 Hall of Fame honorees took place on October 7, 2008 at Texas Woman's University. Entering under a saber arch provided by the 310 Fighter Wing Honor Guard of the Air Force Reserve Unit in Ft. Worth, Governor Rick Perry, Texas First Lady Anita Perry, University Chancellor and President Dr. Ann Stuart, and Commission Chair Wendy Taylor welcomed the five 2008 inductees:

**Dr. Elsa Murano**

*Higher Education*

**Carolyn Peterson**

*Historical Preservation*

**Justice Sandra Day O'Connor**

*Leadership*

**Louise Hopkins Underwood**

*Arts*

**Dr. Huda Zoghbi**

*Health Research*



Governor Rick Perry, First Lady Anita Perry, Dr. Ann Stuart, and the 2008 Hall of Fame Inductees.

## 2008 Texas Women's Hall of Fame Inductee



**Dr. Elsa Murano**  
Higher Education

Dr. Elsa Murano is proof that The American Dream is still alive – and presiding over Texas' oldest public institution of higher learning. When her family fled Cuba, Elsa was just two; she would eventually become the first woman, first Hispanic-American, and one of the youngest people to be named President of Texas A&M University.

Elsa's family followed her father's work throughout Latin America. Upon moving to Miami at the age of 14, Elsa spoke no English, but enrolled at Miami Coral Park High School, and was a quick study. Her mother's emphasis on education inspired Elsa to earn her high-school diploma and continue on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Miami's Florida International University. She received her Masters of Science in Anaerobic Microbiology and a Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Dr. Murano began her professional career at Iowa State University, moving to Texas A&M's Department of Animal Science in 1995, and eventually serving as Director of the Center for Food Safety within the school's Institute of Food Science and Engineering.

In 2001, Dr. Murano was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as Under Secretary for Food Safety for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As the country's highest-ranking food safety official, Dr. Murano oversaw the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service – and the third-largest beef recall in America's history. The incident spurred Dr. Murano to substantially reform the inspection service; under her leadership, food recalls dramatically decreased.

Dr. Murano subsequently returned to Texas A&M as Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences, where she helped increase the college's enrollment, and strengthen the school's teaching, research and extension efforts.

On January 3, 2008, Dr. Elsa Murano, 48, took office as the 23<sup>rd</sup> President of Texas A&M University. As A&M President, Dr. Murano continues to stretch herself and her abilities, and advises students to do the same – because consistently going above and beyond your comfort zone is exactly how you reach The American Dream.

## 2008 Texas Women's Hall of Fame Inductee

### **Carolyn Peterson, FAIA** Historical Preservation



A preeminent preservation architect, Carolyn Peterson has made Texas' rich cultural heritage more accessible to the public by revitalizing some of our state's most treasured historic landmarks.

Ms. Peterson was educated at Victoria College and The University of Texas at Austin at a time when women rarely were accepted in the field of architecture. Yet in 1964, she was welcomed into the San Antonio-based firm of iconic architect O'Neil Ford, now known as Ford, Powell & Carson. Ms. Peterson became a firm partner in 1979.

Since 1966, Ms. Peterson has designed continual restorations to San Antonio's Spanish missions, and since 1979, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas have engaged her to preserve the historical significance of the Alamo for its more than two million annual visitors.

Ms. Peterson has given new life to the historic courthouses of Bexar, Caldwell, Hays and Maverick counties, and beginning in 1988, served as the architect leading the seven-year effort to restore the Texas State Capitol. Decades of neglect and inappropriate response to changing needs had left the building architecturally diminished and dangerously overcrowded. Ms. Peterson and her team painstakingly worked to match historic photographs and documents, and fulfilled contemporary space, comfort and technological needs, all while maintaining architectural and historical integrity of the building.

Other important projects benefiting from Ms. Peterson's mastery include participation in the revival of many buildings in Galveston's Strand Historic District, the restoration of San Antonio's San Fernando Cathedral and St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and the revitalization of the Driscoll Villa at Austin's Laguna Gloria.

Ms. Peterson has served as a board member for the San Antonio Conservation Society and the Texas Preservation Trust Fund. Her extraordinary work has earned her induction as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, as well as the *Fundadores de Misiones* medal from the Archdiocese of San Antonio, the Imagineers Award from the Mind Science Foundation and the Texas Historical Commission Award for Preservation of Historic Architecture. In 2009, Ms. Peterson will become the first woman to receive the prestigious "TSA Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Honor of Llewellyn W. Pitts, FAIA" from the Texas Society of Architects.



## 2008 Texas Women's Hall of Fame Inductee



### **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor** Leadership

Sandra Day O'Connor – the first woman to sit on the United States Supreme Court – had to keep up with the big boys early in life. O'Connor was born in El Paso, but grew up on the Lazy B Ranch in southeast Arizona. Founded by her grandfather 30 years before Arizona statehood, the Lazy B had almost 200,000 acres of land and over 2,000 cattle. Sandra's earliest friends on the remote ranch were good books, a pet bobcat and a few javelina hogs. By the age of eight, she could drive a truck, mend a fence and fire a .22 rifle.

Sandra's ranch life was counterbalanced by school years spent in El Paso with her maternal grandmother. Sandra graduated from high school at 16, and went west to Stanford University to earn her Bachelor's degree in Economics. At Stanford Law School, where she met her future husband, she finished high in her class, along with her future Court colleague, William H. Rehnquist.

Rejected by law firms refusing to hire women – though one did offer her a legal secretary job – O'Connor found professional acceptance as a deputy county attorney, a civilian lawyer for the Quartermaster Corps and an assistant state attorney general. Involved in Republican politics, she was appointed in 1969 to replace an Arizona state senator; she won reelection for two terms, and in 1972, was elected Senate Majority Leader, the first woman to hold the position in any state.

O'Connor was elected to a state judgeship, then appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals, where she received the call from President Ronald Reagan nominating her as an Associate Justice. O'Connor served for 25 years, becoming known for her individual and even-handed approach to each case.

Since her 2006 retirement, O'Connor has been vocal about the effect of political pressures on the independence of the courts and on Constitutional freedom. She has also worked diligently against Alzheimer's Disease, from which her husband suffers.

Justice O'Connor's distinguished career and profound inspiration to women have earned her myriad honors, including induction into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, the Liberty Medal from the National Constitution Center and the renaming of Arizona State University's law school as the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

## 2008 Texas Women's Hall of Fame Inductee

### **Louise Hopkins Underwood** Arts



If you're looking for culture and excitement around Lubbock, then you'll find it at The Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts (LHUCA). This community arts center attracts over 48,000 people a year who appreciate visual and performing arts, literature and film in the South Plains region of West Texas – and it bears Louise Hopkins Underwood's name because of her vision, her faith and her perseverance.

Born in Houston in 1919, Mrs. Underwood bounced between Texas and the Northeast before marrying Harris Faulkner Underwood II and settling down after World War II in Lubbock, where they raised six children.

Mrs. Underwood has always been extremely active within her community, but the arts have been her love and have become her legacy. She was a founding member of the Texas Alliance for Education and the Arts, and the Lubbock Cultural Arts Commission. Her involvement and encouragement have benefited individual artists, as well as LHUCA, the Texas Tech University Museum and College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, Ballet Lubbock and three Lubbock theatre groups.

In 1997, Mrs. Underwood – with cofounder Neal Hanslik – conceptualized a single place for area artists to facilitate their work through education, exhibition and performance. They gathered information about arts centers, cultivated support and raised funds to turn the idea into a reality.

The LHUCA campus, covering 34,000 square feet – once an abandoned fire department administration building, a Borden's warehouse, and a former garage and storage building – now provides below-cost professional offices to nonprofit organizations, inexpensive space for classes, exhibitions and meetings, a clay studio and a state-of-the-art theatre. First Friday Art Trails display regional visual artists' work, often drawing more than 2,000 visitors.

Mrs. Underwood's work in the arts has earned her many accolades, including the "Dynamic Force" award from Lubbock's Arts Alliance, and "Champion of the Arts" award from the Texas Alliance for Education and the Arts. But her greatest reward has been her namesake Center – thanks to her own indomitable spirit and passion, a dream come true.

## 2008 Texas Women's Hall of Fame Inductee



**Dr. Huda Zoghbi**  
Health Research

Dr. Huda Zoghbi spent most of her first semester of medical school living in the corner of a ladies' room in a building at the American University of Beirut, while bombs fell outside heralding Lebanon's civil war. At the end of that year, her parents sent Huda to join a sister in Texas. At 22, she began a new life in America, transferring to Nashville's historically black Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Zoghbi returned to Texas for pediatric residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and has never left. She became Chief Pediatrics Resident, then continued residency in Neurology and Pediatric Neurology. But in 1985 – the same year she became a U.S. citizen – Dr. Zoghbi was expecting her first child. She found herself emotionally devastated telling other parents their children had debilitating and essentially untreatable genetic disorders. Dr. Zoghbi sought training in molecular genetics research, to study and help eradicate some of these disorders.

Within ten years, Dr. Zoghbi progressed to her current position as a Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular and Human Genetics, Neurology and Neuroscience, and as an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Dr. Zoghbi specializes in brain disorders, studying the genes that cause the brain to develop and function properly.

While still a resident, Dr. Zoghbi began her research of Rett Syndrome, a developmental disorder that strikes girls around the age of 18 months, causing a broad spectrum of disabling symptoms. Dr. Zoghbi's team identified the gene that, when mutated, causes the disease; she subsequently led a study showing the same gene also controls thousands of other genes – so when it mutates, it can manifest as many different disorders, from autism to schizophrenia.

Dr. Zoghbi's team collaborated with others to identify the genetic mutation causing Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type I, a neurodegenerative disorder that severely compromises balance, impairing walking, talking, and eventually, swallowing and breathing. Dr. Zoghbi has learned that the disease mechanism in this ataxia is similar to mechanisms contributing to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases – so progress in treating one might mean treating even more.

A brilliant, dedicated scientist, Dr. Zoghbi has earned dozens of honors and awards, including becoming the first woman from Baylor College of Medicine to be elected into the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences.



# Texas Women's Hall of Fame Inductees

## 1984

Christia V. Daniels Adair  
Kate Atkinson Bell  
Vivian Lou Anderson  
Castleberry  
Lila May Banks Cockrell  
Clotilde P. Garcia, M.D.  
Jeane Porter Hester, M.D.  
Oveta Culp Hobby  
Dr. Mary Evelyn Blagg Huey  
Sarah Tilghman Hughes  
Lady Bird Taylor Johnson  
Barbara Jordan  
Dr. Amy Freeman Lee

## 1985

Benjy Frances Brooks, M.D.  
Patricia Happ Buffler  
Liz Carpenter  
Grace Woodruff Cartwright  
Helen Farabee  
Maria Elena A. Flood  
Willie Lee Glass  
Lydia Mendoza  
Jenny Lind Porter  
Louise Ballerstedt Raggio  
Ann Richards

## 1986

Anne Legendre Armstrong  
Mary Kay Ash  
Caro Crawford Brown  
Alicia R. Chacon  
Jody Conradt  
Margaret Cousins  
Wilhelmina Fitzgerald Delco  
Mary Lavinia Griffith  
Frances E. Goff  
Dr. May Owen  
Sally Kirsten Ride  
Ada Simond  
Hermine Dalkowitz Tobolowsky

## 1987

Lucy G. Acosta  
Ruth Sharp Altshuler  
Margaret Greer Harris Amsler  
Johnnie Marie Benson  
Tommie Clack  
Kim Dawson  
Dr. Dora Jean Dougherty  
Strother  
Brig. Gen. Lillian Dunlap  
Elithe Hamilton Kirkland  
Dr. Donna Lopiano  
Katie Sherrod  
Dr. Donnya Elle Stephens  
Mary Nan West

## 1988

Nancy Brinker  
Margaret Pease Harper  
Ninfa Lorenzo  
Dr. Lane Murray  
Louise Ritter  
Ruth Taubert Seeger  
Bert Kruger Smith  
Eleanor Tinsley

## 1989

Barbara Bush  
Judith B. Craven, M.D., MPH  
Gussie Nell Davis  
Margaret Swan Forbes  
L. Ruth Guy, Ph.D.  
Terese Tarlton Hershey  
Lucia Rede Madrid  
Jane A. Wetzel

## 1993

Linda Louise Craft  
The Hon. Ernestine V.  
Glossbrenner  
Gabrielle Kirk McDonald  
Eleanor D. Montague, M.D.  
Aaronetta H. Pierce  
Gloria G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
The Hon. Annetee Strauss

## 1994

Rosa Ramirez Guerrero  
Irma L. Rangel  
Mary Beth Rogers  
Bess Whitehead Scott  
Hallie Stillwell  
Francie Larrieu Smith  
Alvia J. Wardlaw  
Martha J. Wong, Ed.D.  
Eleanor Anne Young, Ph.D.

## 1996

Ebby Halliday Acers  
Rita Crockers Clements  
Zina Garrison  
Sybil B. Harrington  
The Hon. Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Vassar Miller  
Dr. Helen Matusevich Oujesky  
Dian Graves Owen  
Ruby Lee Piester  
Dr. Sonja Eva Singletary

## 1998

Norma Lea Beasley  
Shirley Carter  
Elizabeth L. Ghrist  
The Hon. Kay Granger  
Dr. Dixie Melilli  
Dr. Diana Natalicio  
Marsha Sharp

## 2000

Tillie Burgin  
Carol Eggert Dinkins  
Anna Maria Farias  
Juliet V. Garcia, Ph.D.  
Glenna Goodacre  
Wendy Schlessel Harpham,  
M.D.  
Jinger L. Heath  
Dealey Decherd Herndon  
Mamie L. McKnight, Ph.D.  
Jo Stewart Randel  
Judy Rankin

## 2002

Dr. Mae Johnson  
Ann Williams  
Karen Hughes  
Sister Angela Murdaugh

## 2004

The Hon. Susan Combs  
Trinidad Mendenhall  
Mary Meyers Rosenfield  
Sheryl Swoopes

## 2006

Dr. Shirley Neeley  
Kathleen Foster  
Dr. Ellen Vitetta  
Amanda Dunbar

## 2008

Huda Zoghbi, M.D.  
The Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor  
Carolyn Peterson, FAIA  
Louise Hopkins Underwood  
Elsa Murano, Ph.D.



# **81st Texas Legislature: Legislation Affecting Women**

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# The 81st Texas Legislature

The Texas Legislature, comprised of the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives, meets in the Capitol in Austin. The Texas Legislature is in session for approximately five months, beginning in January, in odd-ending years. The 81st Texas Legislature convened on January 11, 2009, and adjourned on June 1, 2009.

The following legislation from the 81st Legislature has been signed into law by Governor Perry. These particular bills are listed because of their relationship to the goals and initiatives of the 2007-2009 Governor's Commission for Women, or for their independent value to Texas women. Each bill includes a description and the effective date of the legislation's provisions. For more information on any of these bills, the Texas Legislature, or the legislative process in Texas, please visit [www.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.legis.state.tx.us).

**HB 136** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to providing notification to parents of eligible children the availability of pre-kindergarten programs in their community.

**HB 281** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to grants for school-based health centers.

**HB 319** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to an exemption from jury service for certain persons with legal custody of a child younger than 15 years of age.

**HB 451** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to the health benefit plan coverage for autism spectrum disorder.

**HB 703** (effective 5/23/09)

Relating to fall prevention awareness.

**HB 1012** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to the conservatorship or possession of, or access to, a child in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

**HB 1041** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to school district policies addressing sexual abuse of children and establishment of a state strategy to reduce child abuse and neglect and improve child welfare.

**HB 1290** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to health benefit plan coverage for bariatric surgery and for certain tests for the early detection of cardiovascular diseases.

**HB 1326** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to a plan to replenish the food supplies of food banks or food pantries following a disaster.

**HB 1510** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to including information on sudden infant death syndrome in a resource pamphlet for parents of newborn children.

**HB 1622** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to a grant program to provide children at risk of hunger or obesity with increased access to nutritious foods.

**HB 1795** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to newborn screening and the creation of the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.

**HB 1935** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to the establishment of certain programs to support adult and postsecondary education and workforce development in high-demand occupations and green jobs.

**HB 1990** (effective 5/23/09)

Relating to a diabetes self-management training pilot program under the state Medicaid programs.

**HB 2066** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to enhancing penalties for assaulting a family member by strangulation or suffocation.

**HB 2240** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to creating the offense of continuous violence against the family.

**HB 3385** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to the activation of the statewide alert system for abducted children.

**HB 4476** (effective 5/27/09)

Relating to the professional nursing shortage reduction program.

**HCR 80** (effective 6/19/09)

Recognizing March 2009 as National Women's History Month.

**SB 282** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to grant and outreach programs to provide nutrition education to children.

**SB 343** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to the creation of an advisory committee to study the retail availability of healthy foods in certain underserved areas of the state.

**SB 395** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating the creation of the Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Interagency Council.

**SB 870** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to the duties of the interagency obesity council and the Department of Agriculture relating to health, wellness, and prevention of obesity and to the establishment of an obesity prevention pilot program.

**SB 1344** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to an alcohol awareness component of the health curriculum used in public schools.

**SB 1646** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to the creation of the Council on Children and Families.

**SB 1732** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to safety requirements for public swimming schools and other artificial bodies of water.

**SB 1735** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to providing police and security services for certain post-secondary educational institutions.

**SB 1838** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to involuntary termination of parental rights based on attempted murder or solicitation of murder of the child's other parent.

**SB 1903** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to the creation of a recognition day honoring the servicemen and servicewomen who served in Vietnam.

**SB 1930** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to the use of a confidential identity for the plaintiff in a civil action involving sexual abuse of a minor.

**SB 1941** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to the administration and operation of the state's programs for prepaying or saving toward the costs of attending an institution of higher education.

**SB 2048** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to the establishment of a centralized sex offender registration authority in certain counties in this state.

**SB 2080** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to treating and reducing child abuse and neglect and improving child welfare, including providing assistance for adoptive parents and foster care providers.

**SB 2178** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to the establishment by the commissioner of education of a computer lending pilot program for public schools.

**SB 2217** (effective 9/1/09)

Relating to the designation of a judicial district in Harris County as the district court for domestic violence cases in that county.

**SB 2258** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to intensive summer programs for public school students and to college readiness programs at public institutions of higher education.

**SB 2262** (effective 6/19/09)

Relating to the administration of mathematics, science, and technology teacher preparation academies at institutions of higher education.

**SB 2307** (effective 5/27/09)

Relating to the preservation and maintenance of the Governor's Mansion.

# Commissioner Profiles



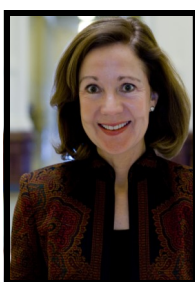
## 2007-2009 Commissioners

### Wendy Taylor, Chair



Wendy Taylor is an account director with Sanders/Wingo Advertising. Wendy has more than 15 years of experience in communications strategy, with special expertise in health care, governmental affairs and economic development. Taylor's business experience was featured in the 2008 Broadway Books publication, "The Girl's Guide to Kicking Your Career into Gear". She also previously served as Texas First Lady Anita Perry's press secretary. Wendy is a member of the Advertising Federation and the Texas Exes. Wendy earned her bachelor of journalism degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

### Carol Peterson, Vice Chair



Carol Foxhall Peterson of Alpine is the event and marketing director for the historic Gage Hotel in Marathon where she also served as the food and beverage director. She is a member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals. Previously, Carol spent over 26 years in the fashion industry, leading a private-label clothing manufacturer supplying major catalogue companies. She also was a divisional vice president and buyer for Neiman Marcus in Dallas and a buyer for Foley's in Houston. In Alpine, Carol volunteers for Frontier CASA and Pilot Club community service organization. Carol earned her bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and also received a culinary arts degree from New York's French Culinary Institute.

### Cynthia Jenkins



Cynthia Jenkins of Irving is vice president of CTJ Maintenance, Inc., a commercial building maintenance corporation where she also serves as a board member, and vice president of Janitors Market, LLC, a corporation that markets and sells to custodial firms and other accounts. Additionally, Cynthia is the executive director of Bear Creek Development Corporation, a real-estate development company that builds residential home for low- to moderate-income families. Cynthia is actively involved in civic community outreach programs, is the Chief Operating Officer for Community Praise and Worship Church, and is a graduate of Leadership Irving. She earned her bachelor's degree in computer science at Texas A&M at Commerce.

### Dr. Christie Leedy, D.D.S.



Dr. Christie Leedy is a practicing dentist and owner of Abilene Dental. Leedy serves as founder of the Angel Smiles program, and a member of the 17th District Dental Society and the Texas Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Within her community, Leedy is involved in the Junior Achievement Board of Directors, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and the Junior League of Abilene. Leedy has been recognized by the Small Business Salute and the Women in Business Salute; she was also named West Texas Business Woman of the Month. Leedy attended college at Tarleton State University and Western Texas College; she earned her doctor of dental surgery degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental Branch.



## 2007-2009 Commissioners

### Lisa Lucero



Lisa Lucero of Austin is on staff with the Texas Oil and Gas Association. Past employment includes Exxon Mobil Corporation, Department of Agriculture, Texas Racing Commission, Office of the governor, and the Texas Senate. Lisa is an active member of St. Austin's Catholic Church and St. Austin's Catholic School Advisory Board. Lucero attended the University of Texas at Austin.

### Becky McKinley



Becky McKinley of Amarillo owns Dining by Design, a catering and event planning service, and serves as the food columnist for the Morrison News Group. A member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals, Becky spent seven years writing a food column for Accent West magazine. As an active community volunteer, she organizes and caters many nonprofit fundraising events, and is also an involved member of the Baptist St. Anthony's Health System board, the Amarillo Samaritan Counseling Board and the KACV Public Television board. Becky earned her bachelor of fine arts degree at Texas Tech University, with a special-education endorsement.

### Carmen Pagan



Carmen Pagan of McAllen co-owns Milestones Therapeutic Associates, a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation clinic. A certified speech pathologist and member of the American Speech and Hearing Association and the Texas Speech and Hearing Association, Carmen serves as her firm's chief operating officer and executive clinical director. She has been a regular speaker for organizations like the University of Texas - Pan American, Region One Educational District and various public school districts. Carmen is past-president of Beta Sigma Phi service sorority, is a sustaining member of the Junior League of McAllen and an active member of Baptist Temple Church in McAllen. Carmen earned her bachelor and her master's degree (cum laude) in communications disorders at the University of Texas - Pan American.

### Peggy Hairgrove



A retired elementary school teacher of 29 years, Peggy Hairgrove of Bryan is a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma-Beta Chi Chapter, an honorary teacher organization. Prior to her husband's retirement, Peggy assisted his veterinary clinic with surgeries and medication. She currently works as a part-time associate for a local business and is lovingly caring for her parents. Previously, Peggy played piano accompaniment for services and conducted children's sermons during morning worship for her home church. Peggy holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree, both in education, from Texas Tech University, and an additional master's degree in family studies from Abilene Christian University.

## 2007-2009 Commissioners

### Tresa Rockwell



Tresa Rockwell of Austin is Culture Marketing Manager for Red Bull North America. Rockwell serves as a Director for the Texas Lyceum Association. She is past president of the Rotary Club of El Paso Foundation, the Rotary Club of El Paso, and the Junior League of El Paso. She has served on the Executive Committee Board of Directors for the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the Advertising Federation of El Paso and Las Palmas Hospital Women's Advisory Board. Tresa is a member of the Executive Forum and Leadership El Paso Alumni- Class 9. Rockwell earned her bachelor's degree in management with a minor in marketing at the University of Texas at El Paso.

### Connie Weeks



Connie Weeks, illustrator and publisher of "Ocean Surprises," is a former art teacher and department chair. Weeks holds a Master's Degree in Reading. Her paintings have graced the Texas Governor's Christmas cards as well as publications for the Governor's Commission for Women. Her works have been displayed at the Texas State Capitol and at the Governor's Mansion. A mother of a Marine, Connie collected more than 600 padded helmet liners for service members to prevent severe brain injuries. The liners were then sent to Marines in combat operations in Iraq. In 2002, she was appointed to The Beacon State Fund, the Commission's non-profit financial arm, and in 2009 she was elected President. Connie previously served as an appointee to the Governor's Inaugural Committee in January, 2004.

### Daisy White



Daisy White of Houston is the president of Daisy Sloan White, Inc., a company currently consulting for The Events Company. A member of Meeting Professionals International, Daisy also serves as a board member for the Texas A&M University Press and as committee member for the American Heart Association. Her active volunteer involvement included chairing the Cattle Baron's Ball for the American Cancer Society, the Race for the Cure for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and the Nutcracker Market for the Houston Ballet, as well as serving as the first president of the Cypress Woodland Junior Forum. Daisy earned her bachelor of arts degree in education at the University of Texas, and her master's degree in speech pathology at Southern Methodist University.

### Lisa Perini



Lisa Perini of Buffalo Gap is co-owner and manager of Perini Ranch Steakhouse. She is past president of the Texas Restaurant Association Education Foundation, Vice President for the Texas Restaurant Association, and a member of the James Beard Foundation, the International Association of Culinary Professionals and Les Dames d'Escoffier. She is also a member of the Abilene Restaurant Association, co-founder of the Buffalo Gap Wine and Food Summit, and past board member of the Ben Richey Boys Ranch. She earned her bachelor's degree from Clemson University.

## 2007-2009 Commissioners

### Stephanie Cavender



Stephanie Cavender of San Antonio is treasurer for the Charity Ball Association of San Antonio. She is also a board member of the San Antonio Museum of Art, and member of the Green Hand Garden Club and the World Affairs Council. She earned a bachelor's degree from Salem College.

### Sharon Pittman



Sharon Pittman of College Station is a senior vice president of Coldwell Banker United, Realtors, a company ranked in the top ten of all real estate companies nationwide. She also serves as president of Broadmoor Interests, LLC a real estate investment company. She is a licensed real estate agent, licensed mortgage broker and member of the National Association of Realtors. She chairs the Coldwell Banker United, Realtors Charity Drive for the American Cancer Society, which raises over a quarter-of-a-million dollars every year. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of College Station. She attended Tyler Junior College.

### Lesley Guthrie, Executive Director



Lesley Guthrie is the executive director of the Texas Governor's Commission for Women where she brings more than 20 years of government experience to her role. Previously, Lesley worked for State Representative and Congressman Sam Johnson, The University of Texas System, and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. She is a board member of the National Association of Commissions for Women and vice chair for Girlstart's board of directors. Lesley serves on the advisory committee for the Girls Empowerment Network's Girls Now! Conference and is on the outreach committee for Wonders and Worries. She earned a bachelor's degree in government at the University of Texas at Austin.

# Additional Resources

## Texas Commissions for Women

### **Austin Commission for Women**

P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767-1088  
Phone: (512) 974-3215

### **El Paso Commission for Women**

P.O. Box 3897  
El Paso, Texas  
Phone: (505) 589-5839  
[www.elpasowomen.org](http://www.elpasowomen.org)

### **Fort Worth Commission on the Status of Women**

City Manager's Office  
1000 Throckmorton  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102  
Phone: (817) 871-6110  
[www.forthworthgov.org/women](http://www.forthworthgov.org/women)

### **Laredo Commission for Women**

City Hall  
1110 Houston Street  
Laredo, Texas 78040  
Phone: (956) 794-1785  
[www.ci.laredo.tx.us](http://www.ci.laredo.tx.us)

### **Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women**

City of San Antonio  
Post Office Box 839966  
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966  
Phone: (210) 207-7060  
[www.sanantonio.gov](http://www.sanantonio.gov)

### **Wichita Falls Mayor's Commission on Human Needs**

c/o City Manager's Office  
P.O. Box 1431  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76307  
Phone: (940) 761-7619

### **Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas**

P.O. Box 26051  
Austin, Texas 78755  
Phone: (512) 338-0839  
[www.womenschambertexas.com](http://www.womenschambertexas.com)





The Governor's Commission for Women

P.O. Box 12428

Austin, Texas 78711

Toll-free: (800) 839-5323

Phone: (512) 475-2615

Fax: (512) 463-1832

Email: [women@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:women@governor.state.tx.us)

[www.governor.state.tx.us/women](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/women)